

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 SAA-02 OMB-01
MCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 SSM-03 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05
A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 NEAE-00 EB-08
/131 W

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O P 051049Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8551
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE, CASC
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 5, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3698 (DTG 041550Z JUL 78)

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1. SUMMARY. SHELLING IN EAST BEIRUT AREA STOPPED ABOUT
2400 HOURS JULY 4 BUT RESUMED 0730 HOURS JULY 5. FOREIGN
MINISTER BOUTROS LEFT FOR DAMASCUS FOR CRUCIAL TALKS WITH
SYRIAN LEADERS. CAMILLE CHAMOUN ISSUED A STATEMENT
DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ADF FROM LEBANON. PRIME
MINISTER AL-HOSS RESPONDED BY SAYING THE ADF'S PRESENCE WAS
MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER. THE LEBANESE FRONT APPEALED TO

"CIVILIZED COUNTRIES" TO INTERVENE TO STOP THE FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO UPI, ITALIAN PILOTS MAY DECIDE TO BOYCOTT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF AMERICANS KILLED OR INJURED IN THE BEIRUT FIGHTING SO FAR. THERE WAS REPORTED SHELLING IN SOUTH LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. SHELLING RESUMES.

A. SHELLING IN EAST BEIRUT AREA STOPPED ABOUT 2400 HOURS JULY 4, BUT RESUMED AT 0730, JULY 5. THE SHELLING ON JULY 4 WAS VERY HEAVY, AND THERE WAS AGAIN EXTENSIVE DAMAGE. THE VOICE OF LEBANON WAS AGAIN KNOCKED OFF THE AIR FOR SEVERAL HOURS. THE APARTMENT HOUSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS WAS HIT BY AN ARTILLERY SHELL.

B. IN WEST BEIRUT, A SNIPER HAS APPEARED ON RIAD AL SOLH STREET, THE MAIN BANKING CENTER IN DOWNTOWN BEIRUT, AND ONE PERSON WAS KILLED JULY 4 ON NEARBY FOCH STREET. ARMED LEFTIST MILITIA HAVE TAKEN UP POSITION IN THE MURR TOWER, HOLIDAY INN AND PHOENICIA HOTEL, ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE. SOME SHORTAGES OF GOODS, PARTICULARLY BREAD, HAVE APPEARED IN WEST BEIRUT SHOPS. DURING THE FIGHTING ON JULY 4, AT LEAST TWO ROCKETS HIT IN THE RAS BEIRUT AREA: ONE ON 'AYN AL MURAYAA (SEE PREVIOUS SITREP) AND ONE ON THE PLAYGROUND OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL ABOUT 1000 METERS WEST OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. CITY ELECTRIC POWER FAILED TWICE IN WEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEIRUT JULY 4 AND AGAIN EARLY JULY 5. TELEPHONE SERVICE, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ERRATIC.

3. BOUTROS TO DAMASCUS. FOREIGN DEFENSE MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS LEFT FOR DAMASCUS THE MORNING OF JULY 5 FOR CRUCIAL TALKS WITH SYRIAN LEADERS THERE. THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY SAID THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON AFTER TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SARKIS AND PRESIDENT ASAD.

4. CAMILLE CHAMOUN ATTACKS SYRIANS, DEMANDS SYRIAN ADF WITHDRAWAL. CAMILLE CHAMOUN GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO VOICE OF LEBANON ON JULY 4. ASKED WHY HE HAD NOT NAMED THE "AGRESSOR," CHAMOUN REPLIED: "THE IDENTITY OF THE AGGRESSOR IS SO EVIDENT THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO NAME HIM. THE NAME IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS. THE ADF IS FORMED, EVERYONE KNOWS, OF SYRIAN, SUDANESE AND SAUDI ELEMENTS. NOW NOBODY IS ACCUSING EITHER THE SAUDIS OR SUDANESE OF HAVING COMMITTED AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON."

--ASKED ABOUT FAYYADIYAH, AYN AR-RUMMANEH, ASHRAFIYAH AND

QAA INCIDENTS, CHAMOUN REPLIED "IF THESE EVENTS HAD NOT OCCURRED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TIME TO PUT AN END TO THE PRESENCE OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES IN LEBANON. THE INCIDENTS THAT YOU HAVE EVOKED HAVE PRECIPITATED THE NECESSITY OF THE TOTAL EVACUATION OF THESE FORCES FROM LEBANON. THE LEBANESE MUST TAKE CARE OF THEIR PROBLEMS THEMSELVES."

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--ASKED WHAT ALTERNATIVE THERE WAS TO "ARAB SECURITY" CHAMOUN REPLIED, "IF THERE IS COORDINATED ACTION AMONG THE STATE, PRIVATE INITIATIVE, AND THE INITIATIVE OF THE PARTIES IN LEBANON, I THINK THAT IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THIS WILL

ALLOW UT TO OBTAIN PEACE, SECURITY AND TRANQUILITY. THAT
PUTS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE PARTIES ABOVE ALL ...
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THEY MUST BE THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
LEBANESE SOCIETY ... THEY MUST THEREFORE COOPERATE WITH
THE LEBANESE AUTHORITY. . ."

5. STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS.

A. REPLOYING TO CHAMOUN, PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ISSUED
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT. "THE REMARKS OF PRESIDENT CAMILLE
CHAMOUN IN HIS DECLARATION ON THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE ARE
ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE. THESE PROPOSALS ARE ALL THE MORE
STRANGE IN THAT WE ALL KNOW THAT THE ENTRY OF THE ADF INTO
LEBANON WAS MADE UPON THE REQUEST OF THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES
ON THE BASIS OF A UNIVERSAL LEBANESE DESIRE. IT IS ON THE
BASIS OF THE SAME CONDITIONS THAT THIS FORCE IS REMAINING IN
LEBANON. WE RECALL HERE THE DECISIVE ROLE PLAYED BY
THE ARAB FORCE TO PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON, AND
WE KNOW THAT LEBANON MORE THAN EVER NEEDS THE ASSISTANCE OF
BROTHER ARAB STATES AND ABOVE ALL OF SYRIA WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE. WE KNOW ALSO THAT LEBANON
WILL CONTINUE TO NEED THIS ASSISTANCE UNTIL IT HAS SUCCEEDED
IN PUTTING TOGETHER ARMED FORCES - THE ARMY AND INTERNAL
SECURITY FORCES - IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE GOAL RE-
QUIRED.

B. "IT IS EQUALLY STRANGE THAT PRESIDENT CHAMOUN INSISTED
ON THE ROLE OF THE PARTIES CONCERNING THE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SECURITY, AS IF HE WERE CALLING FOR THE PARTIES TO RE-
PLACE THE STATE IN LARGE MEASURE. AS TO PRESIDENT CHAMOUN'S
AFFIRMATION THAT HE WOULD NOT ASK THE PARTIES TO ASSUME RES-
PONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IF THE STATE WAS CAPABLE OF DOING
SO, THIS ONLY SHOWS CATEGORICALLY THAT WE MORE THAN EVER HAVE
NEED OF THE ADF. WHAT PURPOSE DOES THIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST
THE ADF SERVE AT A TIME WHEN THE CITIZEN ASPIRES TO ONLY ONE
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THING: PEACE, SECURITY, AND TRANQUILITY."

6. LEBANESE FRONT APPEAL. ECHOING AN EARLIER STATEMENT BY
CAMILLE CHAMOUN, THE LEBANESE FRONT ON JULY 4 APPEALED TO
THE UNITED STATES, VATICAN, FRANCE, THE SOVIET UNION, GREAT
BRITAIN, AND WEST GERMANY AND "ALL THE PEOPLE OF CIVILIZED
STATES" TO INTERVENE TO STOP "THE AGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON

AIMED AT EXTERMINATING ITS FREE SOCIETY." THE STATEMENT ALSO
AFFIRMED: "THE GREAT POWERS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH
EXCEED THOSE WHICH THEY ASSUME WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS;
THESE RESPONSIBILITIES CAN BE MORE EFFICIENT."

7. ITALIAN PILOTS MAY BOYCOTT AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO A UPI
STORY CARRIED LOCALLY ON JULY 5 THE ITALIAN FEDERATION OF
PILOTS HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING ITS MEMBERS MAY DECIDE
TO BOYCOTT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BECAUSE IT HAS
BECOME UNSAFE. THE STATEMENT ADDED "WE COULD MODIFY OUR
POSITIONN IF THERE WERE ASSURANCES THE FIGHTING WOULD NOT
AFFECT ALITALIA'S FLIGHTS." TO DATE, FIGHTING HAS AFFECTED
CIVIL AIR SERVICES ONLY marginally, ALTHOUGH MEA AND AIRPORT
GENERALLY HAVE STAFFING PROBLEMS WITH EMPLOYEES UNABLE TO
REACH WORK. FUEL IS SLIGHTLY LOW. CREWS ARE BEING PLACED
IN HOTELS NEAR AIRPORT SO TRAVEL NOT INTERDICTED.

8. NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE NO REPORTS OF
AMERICAN CASUALTIES IN THE FIGHTING SO FAR, HOWEVER, THE BEER
SUPPLY IS BEGINNING TO RUN LOW.

9. REPORTED SHELLING IN SOUTH. ACCORDING TO Wafa, ISRAELI
AND CHRISTIAN ARTILLERY SHELLED THE VILLAGES OF AL AYSHIYAH,
AL JARMAQ, AND AD DIMASHQIYAH IN SOUTH LEBANON ON JULY 4.
Wafa SAID THE SHELLING LASTED FROM 1915 TO 2000 HOURS LOCAL
TIME.

DECONTROL JULY 5, 1979

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, CASC, LE
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Type: TE
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